

54-1942

Charlotte, N.C. News  
February 6, 1942

## Antidote

### For Talmadge Racial Bigotry, a Dose of Mutual Understanding

Blowing, as he does, his testy breath against the coals of racial bigotry and intolerance, Governor Eugene Talmadge all but obscures the intelligent, constructive, educational work being done in Georgia to solve the Negro "problem." Yet, only a few blocks from Gene's headquarters in Atlanta, the work goes on. As evidence of the progress of the Conference on Education and Race Relations, we have its latest pamphlet, *Twelve Million Negro Americans*. Every Southerner should have a copy.

Here are documented facts on the American Negro's rise from slavery to citizenship—his race to catch up with civilization.

Negroes owned 12,000 homes in 1865; by 1930 they owned 700,000. Now they own 181,000 farms and operate 882,000. This aggregate wealth is estimated at \$2,000,000,000. They run 25,000 retail stores, 1,500 factories, 23 banks, 44 insurance companies, 300 newspapers and magazines. There are 1,200 Negro lawyers, 3,800 physicians, 1,700 dentists, 5,000 trained nurses, 4,000 actors, 10,000 musicians, 56,000 teachers. And 59 per cent of all Negroes over 10 years of age are gainfully employed. For native whites the figure is 47 per cent.

Ninety-five per cent of the Negro population was illiterate in 1865. Now less than 15 per cent cannot read and write. And 45,000 Negroes are in college.

These figures are not "radical," they were collected by a group of men who are contributing to a solution of the Negro problem by the exercise of intelligence rather than animosity.

Amsterdam Star-News

New York, N.Y.

## BUS FIRMS MUST LIFT NEGRO BAN

### Ordered to Comply With FDR Jobs Order

(Special Correspondence)

WASHINGTON — The Capital Transit Co., this city's giant street car, bus and electric light utility, was directed to bring its employment policy into line with President Roosevelt's Fair Employment Practice Committee's objectives this week following a campaign by the Committee on Jobs for Negroes in Public Utilities.

The effort to win employment opportunities for qualified bus drivers and street car conductors was started three months ago with such national figures as Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune, Supreme Court Justice Brandeis and Mrs. Raymond Clapper leading the drive.

#### Seven Steps Required

FEPC called upon the transit company's executives to take seven steps in bringing its hiring policy up to the administration's plan for colored workers. The directions are:

1. Issue formal instructions to all your personnel officers and employees to recruit, employ, train, or upgrade prospective workers solely on the basis of the qualifications of applicants without regard to race, creed, color, national origin or citizenship.
2. Issue formal instructions to the appropriate officer to delete from application blanks any reference to race or religion.
3. Give formal notice to any employment agency, whether public or private, through which your company recruits workers, that it will accept needed workers for any and all classifications of work solely on the basis of qualifications.

4. Give notice to training institutions that your company will accept workers for any and all classifications of work without regard to race, creed, color, national origin or citizenship.

#### Must Notify Union

5. Give formal notice to the Amalgamated Association of Street, Electric Railway and Motor Coach Em-

ployees of America, that it will comply fully with its obligation not to discriminate against workers on a basis of race or color.

6. Furnish the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice with a copy of each of these instructions and notices on or before Dec. 5.

7. Submit a monthly report beginning in December, indicating the number of Negroes employed in skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled categories, and the number employed as bus and street car operators.

When the FEPC's order to the transit company was made public Tuesday, Congressman John E. Rankin (D., Miss.) attacked the directive as a "dangerous blow to national unity."

Congressman Rankin and Senator Bilbo are outspoken critics of any effort to give colored Americans a square deal. "Alien influences," Rankin said, "are using the Negro as a smoke screen in their drive to power."

New Masses

New York, N.Y.

## Malcolm S. MacLean

President, Hampton Institute.  
Chairman, Fair Employment Practice Committee.



A SOLDIER disdained at Bracketville, Tex., tolerated at Sidney, Australia, and cheered in London, himself always at war, the Negro broods upon the chances of War II. And what lessons do his experiences teach?

He is caught up in this global storm in which freedom is the stake. He sees that denial of freedom has thrived on barriers of racial exclusion and denial of opportunity. In the year since Pearl Harbor the Negro has seen federal government, as always in democracy, at odds with itself. Administration policy is forthright in statement and aim, but execution of this policy of universal freedom is hampered and slowed by the ignorant or the hard pressed reactionaries who filibuster away the freedom of 10,000,000 at home. For freedom, Negro soldiers man the business end of 155 mm howitzers in the jungles of primitive New Guinea, but Negro skilled workers are not yet all free to work in the factory where those guns are made in Detroit. Qualified Negro chemists, mechanics, and electricians eke out a pittance in struggling schools and small towns, while the Civil Service Commission broadsides colleges with announcements of war service employment opportunities. In a recent survey of the hiring schedules of selected defense employers, the Bureau of Employment Security reported that fifty-one percent of 282,245 expected job openings were still barred to Negro workers. Obviously, the first lesson—the lesson yet to be learned—is that freedom, like charity, begins at home.

In the meantime, jerkily—like infants making first, puny steps—thousands of white Americans are learning how to work with Negroes. A certain aircraft corporation employing 40,000 workers had, in September 1941, never before hired a Negro; but by February 1942 the company had 350 Negroes at work—mainly in production. Other Americans are learning how to ride with Negroes in railroad coaches down through the deep South.

A revealing lesson that, to those benighted souls who had been taught from infancy never

to endure association with Negroes! More signer Toni Michael, whom he loved, which he became wedded.

white Americans are now sitting in confer-married. The force was the labor movement—discovering that teaching salary checks are no longer valuable if Negro teachers with comparable qualifications receive comparable pay.

Lastly, in two conspicuous state campaigns the worthy citizens appear to have learned that the old vote-getting spell of race-baiting has been broken—at least temporarily.

What, then, is the score? For the Negro